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INTERIM REPORT on the HEALTH and SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the RURAL DISTRICT of DRAYTON for the year 1939.

POPULATION. Within recent years certain changes, associated with the development of National Defence Measures, have been made in the District but the gradual transition in the furtherance of such schemes has allowed governmental expansion to be carried forward in close unity with home progress. With the onset of hostilities Civil Health progress has had, to a certain extent, to be held over while priority has been given to the demands of the War Department, and there has been a considerable inflow of labour into the area. The resultant is that the housing review of 1936 cannot be treated as a reliable index of the disposal of population in the area. In conjunction with this increase has been the movement of female and child population from towns in Lancashire, received under the Evacuation Scheme. In Drayton two classes of persons were dealt with:- Mothers with young children, and school-children. In the case of the former, settlement in the new surroundings was slow and many returned home without allowing time for a trial of the changed environment. From observations it would seem that the causes of dis-satisfaction in the new homes were :- great contrast from normal city dwellings - absence of social amenities - changed diet and the general standard of life in the country to which the evacuees could not accommodate themselves. In many cases the householders receiving children showed great consideration:- providing the necessitous with clothing and boots and doing all in their power to make the evacuees comfortable. The Lancastrian School for Cripple Children - a School under the Manchester Education Authority - was transferred to Cloverley Hall. Reconstruction of out-buildings has allowed the children to be accommodated comfortably and the benefit to health should be such that consideration of similar movement should not be postponed until National Crises makes it imperative. The permanency of this change is under review. From time to time Military Forces have been billetted in the area. This increase of local population has given rise to no difficulties, as adequate sanitation has been in being to meet the increased demands and no call has been made on the Sanitary Department.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Emergency Health Laboratory, located at Wellington, has provided improved conveniences for investigation of disease. The Bacteriologist has been called in consultation in certain cases.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. These have been improved with the centralisation of A.R.P.Services in the Urban Area.

WATER. The various supplies in the District have received considerable attention and improvements have been made; this work has been carried out by the Sanitary Inspector who has devoted much time and thought to secure satisfactory results. The water department of The Harper Adams College has given much assistance and advice.

Cheswardine. As reported in 1938 this supply on examination was found to be unsatisfactory and, in January of the following year, the Sanitary Inspector prepared a chlorination plant which, after trial was adjusted to provide an adequate protection to consumers. With chlorination in progress, the whole scheme was reconditioned and reorganised. The gathering-ground was given more ample protection from contamination from straying animals - spring water was collected direct from the rock to a common collecting-chamber - this involving the piping of about a dozen springs - from the collecting-chamber plans were prepared for the laying of a new pipe-line to the existing ram and this work will be carried out expeditiously. In the course of the reconstruction subsidiary supplies in the route have been eradicated and their use discontinued. During the above alterations and improvements, repeated tests were made to secure the maximum purity of supply and to give complete protection to local users - the whole being carried out with a view to conserving the greatest possible flow. When all works have been completed chlorination will be discontinued.

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Goldstone (private). There are two supplies at Goldstone. The old supply from Spring now only supplies two Council Houses. Results of analysis shows slight pollution. Steps have been taken to protect the inspection chamber at the spring from possible pollution from surface water. - The new bore hole which supplies the Goldstone Estate shows a high standard of purity.

Marchamley (private). Unsatisfactory results were obtained from examinations made and the supply was investigated. The collecting-chamber at the springs was considered the source of trouble. In collaboration with the Wem R.D.C., in whose area the springs are situated, consumers were advised to boil any water before using.

HOUSING. Work in this department has, of necessity, been curtailed but such measures as have been able to be taken have maintained the high standard of the district.

FOOD. Surveys of premises used for the preparation of foods have resulted in improvements being required, but it has not been possible in every case to have these carried out.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE. There has been no marked change in the number of cases reported during the year. The new regulations governing the notification of Measles and Whooping Cough made little change in the total figures: there was nothing approaching epidemic conditions in the district.

(Signed) W. A. M. STEWART.

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